

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14 and 17-24 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 14, 17 and 19 are amended and claims 3, 16 and 25 are canceled. The above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3-12 and 16-23 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant notes that because claim 8 is an independent claim, claims 8 and 9 should have been indicated as being allowed rather than allowable. Furthermore, as Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, Applicant submits that at least claims 1, 4 and 10-13 should now be indicated to be allowed. Additionally, as Applicant has amended claim 14 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 16, Applicant submits that at least claims 14 and 21-24 should now be indicated to be allowed. Finally as Applicant has presented claims 5, 7, 17 and 19 in independent form, Applicant submits that claims 5-7 and 17-20 should now be indicated to be allowed. By these amendments, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims 1, 4-14 and 17-24 in condition for allowance and that the rejection under 102(b) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings were apparently objected to based on informalities noted in the Form PTO-948. Applicant is herein submitting seven (7) Replacement Sheet drawing sheet showing Figs. 1A – 5 in formal drawing format and in a manner which addresses the informalities noted in the Form PTO-948.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that the drawings are accepted.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1, 13, 14, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,410,546 to BOYER et al.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis of this rejection, Applicant has, in an effort to advance prosecution of the allowable claims, amended the claims in a manner which renders this rejection moot.

Specifically, claims 1 and 14 have been amended to recite subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable over the art of record, i.e., to respectively include the features of claims 3 and 16. Thus, claims 1, 13, 14 and 24 are now believed to be allowed. Additionally, claim 25 has been canceled.

Applicant reserves the right to file the subject matter of the rejected claims in one or more continuation applications.

Comments on Reasons for Allowance

In response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth in the Office Action, Applicant wished to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of the indicated claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of these claims is based on the totality of the recited features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for

extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Anderson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a stylized, looping flourish extending to the right.

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REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are seven (7) Replacement Sheet drawing sheets showing Figs. 1A-1C, 2A-2B, and 3-5. The Replacement Sheet drawing sheet are formal drawings based on the originally filed drawings and the drawing amendment to Figs. 3 and 4 made in the Rule 1.111 Amendment filed on March 29, 2005. The Replacement Sheet drawing sheets are responsive the Office Action dated June 17, 2005 and specifically to the Form PTO-948 attached to this Office Action. Applicant submits that the objections noted in the Form PTO-948 have been rendered moot by the attached Replacement Sheet drawing sheets. No new matter has been added.